

HPB

8

CS HB 8 (Finance)

"An Act relating to the addition of land to Kachemak Bay State Park and Kachemak Bay State Wilderness Park."

JUSTIFICATION SUMMARY

House Bill 8 adds three major parcels to Kachemak Bay State Park and Kachemak Bay State Wilderness Park. Those additions are outlined in this summary.

NUKA ISLAND AND NUKA UPLANDS: 42, 092 ACRES +/-

Nuka Island and its adjacent uplands have been identified in the U.S. Congressional Record for inclusion within the boundary of the Kenai Fjords National Park. As state land, it cannot be part of Kenai Fjords, but this is a good illustration of the nationally recognized values of this island area.

(As a matter of interest, the February 1988 edition of Alaska Magazine contains an article on the Kenai Fjords National Park. The article and its accompanying illustrations still describe Nuka Island and Nuka uplands as national park lands.)

Some of the significant values are:

- * The area has some of the most varied representation of shore and tidal marine life along the Kenai Fjord area.

- * The outstanding scenic beauty complements hiking, fishing, boating and other similar recreational opportunities.

- * Management of a commercial lease for facility development on the west side of the island corresponds with the current Nuka Island Management Plan. Development of recreational and tourism use by the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation make Nuka Island the logical "jumping off" point for enjoyment of Kachemak Bay State Wilderness Park, Kenai Fjords National Park, and other parts of the island itself.

- * It is the only potential development link between Seward and Homer via cruise ship and state ferry system, and the only sheltered development site from Gore Point to Cape Resurrection also safe from earthquake and tsunami waves.

- * Nuka Island has been identified by the Kachemak Bay State Park Citizen's Advisory Board for inclusion into the park since 1982. The Nuka Island Management Plan, completed in December of 1986, cites the island's high recreational potential.

NUKA ISLAND (cont'd.)

NOTE: The state has reached a land settlement with the University of Alaska, and certain Nuka Island lands are part of this agreement. The University has made a tentative selection of two 25 acres sites (one at Mike's Bay, and one at Herring Pete's Cove). These sites are available for commercial lodge development under the Nuka Island Management Plan, and are subject to conditions of the plan. House Bill 8 provides for these parcels.

COTTONWOOD CREEK AND EASTLAND CREEK: 2,310 ACRES, +/-

The Cottonwood-Eastland Creek parcels have been under consideration as potential park for over a decade. In 1979, the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation identified these parcels as desirable park land, following a recreational development feasibility study.

Located on the northern shore of Kachemak Bay, these lands are not contiguous to the balance of Kachemak Bay State Park. However, they will meet a strong need for road accessible recreational park land near Homer that can be readily developed. The nearest developed state park facility is the Anchor River State Recreational Area (approximately 16 miles north of Homer on the Sterling Highway), which is primarily used for fishing and camping. The Homer Spit is the only other area with public recreational facilities (operated by the City of Homer), and the summer impact to the spit will be relieved somewhat by development of Cottonwood-Eastland.

The 1979 feasibility study noted archaeological sites in the area, and recommended investigation, evaluation, and excavation if necessary, to preserve and protect these sites. Transfer to park status would help assure this.

Other justification for inclusion of Cottonwood-Eastland parcels in this legislation include:

- * High scenic and wildlife values
- * Developed road to area
- * Strong likelihood of year-round public use, when facilities are developed.

AURORA LAGOON: 2, 553 ACRES +/-

This is a logical adjustment to the boundary of the park. In discussions with former legislators, it seems apparent that the omission of Aurora Lagoon from the original Kachemak Bay State Park legislation was an oversight. Currently, the lagoon is heavily used for recreational pursuits.

AURORA LAGOON (cont'd.)

Aurora Lagoon itself offers high scenic and recreational values, and is one of the few locations of safe high tide moorage in this area of Kachemak Bay unaffected by inclement weather. Additionally, there are good beach landing sites for small craft.

Other justifications include:

- * Excellent camping and hiking potential.
- * Strong potential as a public use cabin site.
- * Good recreational fishing in area - salmon, crab, clams.
- * The Kachemak Bay State Park Citizen's advisory board has identified Aurora Lagoon for inclusion in the park since 1984.
- * Commercial development (a wilderness lodge) is taking place on private lands at nearby Bear Cove. State park status of these Aurora Lagoon lands would enhance and encourage recreation in the entire Aurora Lagoon/Bear Cove area, which has an excellent potential for trail development.



Rep. Mike Navarre
prime sponsor, HB8

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(9)

Date Referred: January 9, 1989

FURTHER REFERRALS: FINANCE

Date of Committee Action: 1-19-89

The RESOURCES Committee recommends that:

HOUSE BILL NO. 8 [KACHEMAK BAY STATE PARK & WILDERNESS PARK]
"An Act relating to the addition of land to Kachemak Bay State Park and Kachemak Bay State Wilderness Park."

- [] be replaced with _____ [] the same title
[] a new title
- [] have attached amendment(s)
- do pass
[] do not pass
[] no recommendation
[] individual recommendations
[] additional referral to the _____ Committee

ADOPTS: _____ letter of intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

- fiscal impact
[] zero fiscal note
[] zero with analysis

APPROVES PREVIOUS:

- [] fiscal note(s) published:

[] zero fiscal notes(s) published:

SIGNING DO PASS:

Cliff Davidson

Mike Navane

Richard Foley

Bob Hill

SIGNING OTHER THAN DO PASS:
(Do Not Pass, No Recommendation, Amend)

Bob Hill No-Rec.
Walt Furnace No Rec.

Cliff Davidson
Chairman's signature

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: 4/20/88
 Title: Addition to Kachemak Bay State Park
 Sponsor: Navarre/Swackhammer
 Requestor: Senate Resource Committee
 Agency Affected: DNR
 BRU: Park Management
 Components: _____

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94
PERSONAL SERVICES		16.5	16.5	16.5	16.5	16.5
TRAVEL		.5	.5	.5	.5	.5
CONTRACTUAL		1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
SUPPLIES		1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
EQUIPMENT		1.0				
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING		20.0	19.0	19.0	19.0	19.0

CAPITAL						
---------	--	--	--	--	--	--

REVENUE						
---------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND		20.0	19.0	19.0	19.0	19.0
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL		20.0	19.0	19.0	19.0	19.0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME		1	1	1	1	1
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

HB 8 provides for additions to Kachemak Bay State Park and Wilderness Park of important public access points, scenic and recreational values, marine and upland habitat and areas which will enhance the tourism potential of the area.

Prepared by: Neil C. Johannsen Phone: 762-2600
 Division: Parks & Outdoor Recreation Date: 1/17/89

Approved by Commissioner: Lennie Gorsuch Date: 1-19-89
 Agency: Department of Natural Resources

Distribution (by preparer):

- Legislative Finance
- Legislative Sponsor
- Requestor
- Office of Management and Budget
- Impacted Agency(ies)

Position Title Park Ranger I		No. of Positions 1	Range/Step 14A	Barg. Unit GGU
Time Status PPT	Start Months 5	Location Homer		Election District D, 5-A
Type of Expenditure		Amount		
1	2	3		
Salary	12.2			
Benefits	4.3			
Premium Pay				
Other				
Total Personal Services		16.5		
Travel		.5		
Contractual		1.0		
Commodities		1.0		
Equipment		1.0		
Other				
Total Cost		20.0		
Funding Source for Total Cost				
Federal Receipts	1002			
G. F. Match	1003			
General Fund	1004	20.0		
I-A Receipts	1006			
CIP Receipts	1051			
Other				

Justification
 HB 244 - Funding for a five-month seasonal Park Ranger I to be stationed in Homer. The ranger will be responsible for visitor services, resource protection, recruiting and supervising volunteers, park development and emergency services. Access to the park is primarily by water and visitors often encounter difficult tidal and weather conditions. The ranger provides essential public safety services and visitor information.

**Request For
New Position**

Agency NATURAL RESOURCES
 BRU Parks & Outdoor Recreation
 Component Parks Management

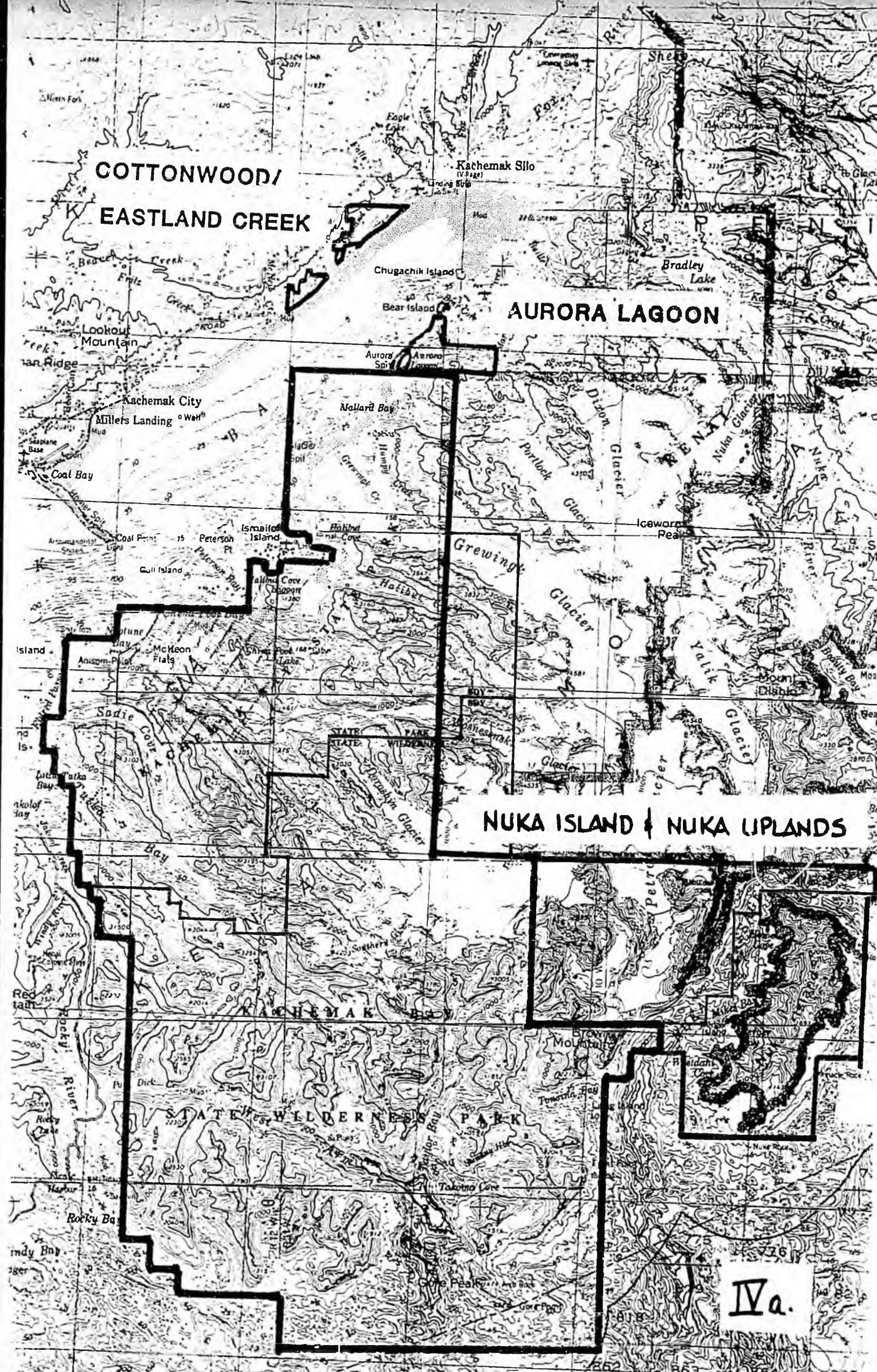
FY 90

Page 1 of 1
 Revised Date 1/17/89

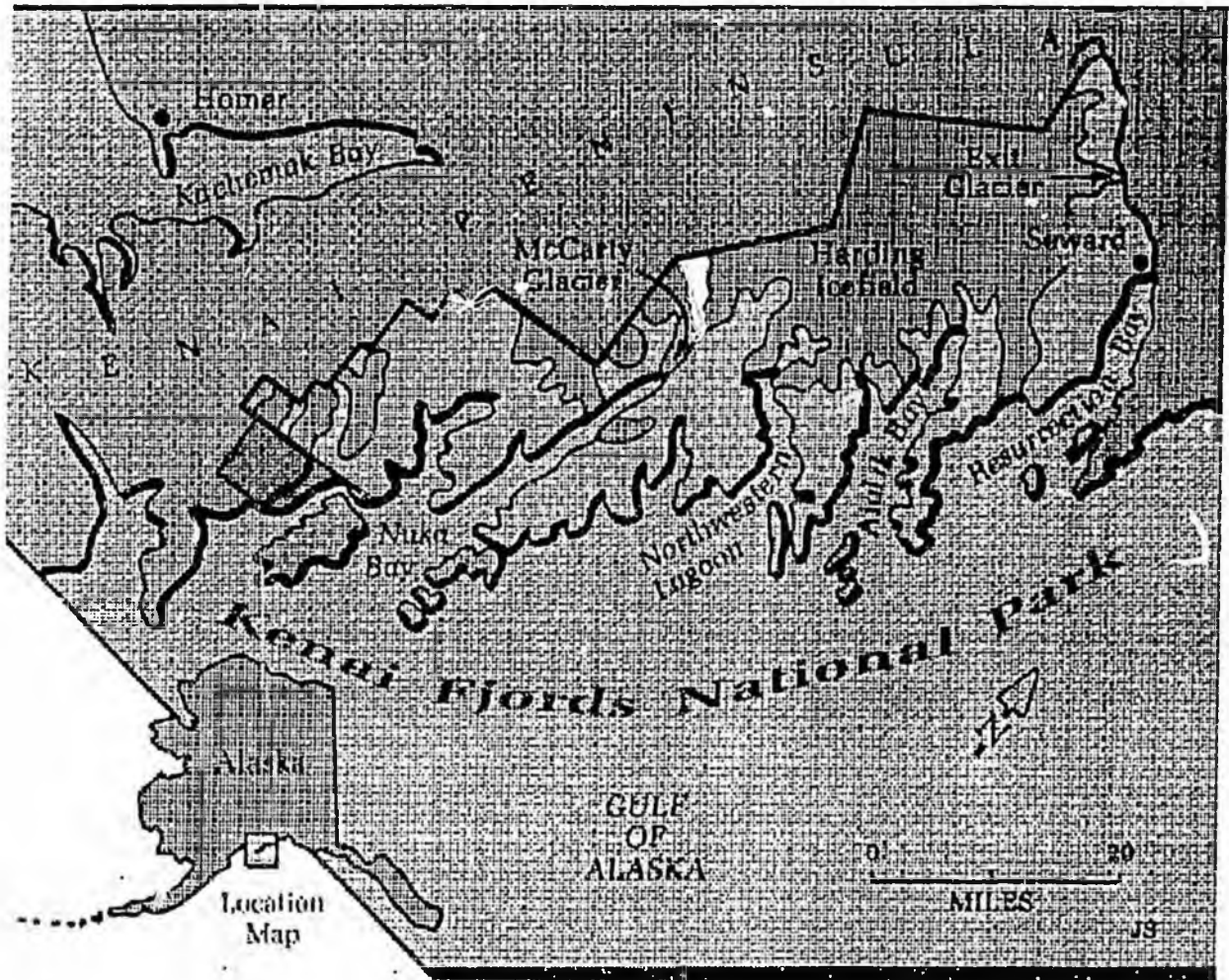
COTTONWOOD/
EASTLAND CREEK

AURORA LAGOON

NUKA ISLAND & NUKA UPLANDS



IVa.



Reprinted from Alaska Magazine February 1988

IV b.

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

STEVE COWPER, GOVERNOR

400 WILLOUGHBY AVE.
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801-1798
PHONE: (907) 485-2400

January 18, 1989

The Honorable Curt Menard, Co-Chair
The Honorable Cliff Davidson, Co-Chair
House Resources Committee
P.O. Box V
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Representatives Menard and Davidson:

Subject: House Bill 8 adds two parcels totaling 4,800 acres to Kachemak Bay State Park and one parcel of 42,000 acres to Kachemak Bay State Wilderness Park.

Position: The Department of Natural Resources supports HB 8. The completion of the University of Alaska land settlement and the Mental Health lands agreement removed any actively competing interests in these lands.

Background: HB 8 has enjoyed wide support from the community of Homer with resolutions of support from the City of Homer, the Kenai Peninsula Borough, Homer Businessmen's Association, Chamber of Commerce and Visitor's Association, and from Commercial Fishing Groups.

Lands included in HB 8 include,

Aurora Lagoon: A 2,500 acre marine tidal estuary and rich habitat with associated uplands immediately adjacent to Kachemak Bay State Park. The lagoon is the site of several nesting eagles, and an important inter-tidal area. The area has a significant cultural history and is the location of the DeLaguna early man discovery. The lagoon is a major access point to the park and one of the very few safe boat anchorages along the parks' coastline.

Cottonwood/Eastland Creek: This 2,300 acre coastal bluff uplands on the Homer side of Kachemak Bay is the only public land along the entire coastline from Homer to the head of the bay. The area is accessible by East End Road and offers excellent potential for outstanding scenic vistas, trails, camping, and natural history interpretation. There is no other comparable parcel of land near Homer which offers such recreational opportunities for the local community and visitors.

Representative Menard
Representative Davidson

- 2 -

January 18, 1989

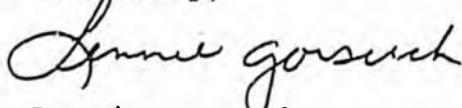
Nuka Island and Uplands: Nuka Island and uplands associated with Petrof glacier will become part of Kachemak Bay State Wilderness Park. Nuka island, located along the outer Gulf Coast, has a rugged landscape and high energy beaches exposed to wind and waves. The island is largely mountainous, but the west side has a number of attractive bays which offer good opportunities for recreational boat anchorages. The University land settlement provides the University with two 25 acre parcels in two bays for development of a wilderness lodge and recreational facilities associated with glacier trips, sealife tours, flight seeing, and excursions. The island is home to several nesting bald eagles and is a haul out area for the Stellar sea lion. Large concentrations of harbor seals and otters are common to the area. The island is an important seabird rookery with concentrations of kittiwakes, tufted and horned puffins, comorants, murre, murrelets and petrels. A survey conducted by the USFWS found Nuka Island to be one of the most heavily used bald eagle nesting areas along the entire south Kenai coast.

Timber resources on the island are marginal due to the exposed coast, rugged terrain, and a tree line ending at 500 feet elevation. The primary commercial tree stands are located on the mainland and are not included in this legislation.

Mineral potential on Nuka Island is considered poor for either minerals or sand, gravel, or construction materials. The geologic formation consists primarily of slates, greywacke, and easily eroded thinly bedded phyllites which are not known for their mineral potential. The island is unusual in that it is not a granite rock island like others in the region which contain gold in lode deposits. There are no mining claims on the island.

The department looks forward to working with the sponsor and the committee on this legislation.

Sincerely,



Lennie Gorsuch
Commissioner

cc: Bill Sponsor
Committee Members
Bob Evans

Packet Index:

- I. Memo from Rep. Navarre to Resources Committee
- II. Copy of HB 8
- III. Justification Summary
- IV.
 - (a). Map of additions
 - (b). Reproduction of map from Feb 1988 Alaska Magazine article about Kenai Fjords National Park.
- V. Resolutions of Support (for H' from last year).

JUSTIFICATION SUMMARY

NUKA ISLAND AND NUKA UPLANDS: 42,092 ACRES +/-

Nuka Island has been identified in the U.S. Congressional Record for inclusion within the boundary of the Kenai Fjords National Park. As state land, it obviously cannot be part of Kenai Fjords, but this is a good illustration of the nationally significant values this island area possesses.

(As a matter of fact, the February 1988 edition of Alaska Magazine contains an article on the Kenai Fjords National Park. The article and its accompanying illustrations still indicate Nuka Island and a portion of the Nuka uplands as part of the national park.)

Some of the significant values are:

- * The area has some of the most varied life representation of littoral and sub-littoral marine ecosystem along the Kenai Fjord area.
- * The outstanding scenic beauty complements hiking, fishing, boating and other similar recreational opportunities.
- * Management of a commercial lease for facility development on the west side of the island corresponds with the current Nuka Island Management Plan. Development of recreational and tourism use by the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation make Nuka Island the logical "jumping off" point for enjoyment of Kachemak Bay State Wilderness Park, Kenai Fjords National Park, and the island itself.
- * It is the only potential development link between Seward and Homer, via cruise ship and state ferry system, and is the only sheltered potential development site from Gore Point to Cape Resurrection that is also safe from earthquake and tsunami waves.
- * Nuka Island has been identified by the Kachemak Bay State Park Citizen's Advisory Board for inclusion into the park since 1982. The Nuka Island Management Plan, completed in December of 1986, cites the island's high recreational potential.

NOTE: The State of Alaska's settlement with the University of Alaska has been reached, and certain Nuka Island lands are a part of this settlement. Two sites, which are available for commercial lodge development under the Department of Natural Resources' Nuka Island Management Plan, will be transferred to the University. These consist of approximately 25 acres at Herring Pete's Cove, and 25 acres at either Mike's Bay or Home Cove. The sites were to be selected by January 1, 1989, with conveyance subject to the conditions set forth in the management plan. At this writing, staff is making inquiries to ascertain if the University has finalized its selection of those sites. In any event, provisions are made in HB 8 for the tentative sites.

JUSTIFICATION SUMMARY

COTTONWOOD CREEK & EASTLAND CREEK: 2,310 ACRES +/-

The Cottonwood-Eastland Creek parcels have been under consideration as potential park for over a decade. In 1979, the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation completed a recreational development feasibility study on these parcels.

While these lands are not contiguous to the balance of Kachemak Bay State Park, they will meet a strong need for recreational park land near Homer that can be readily developed. The nearest developed state park facility is the Anchor River State Recreational Area (approximately 16 miles north of Homer, on the Sterling Highway), which is primarily used for fishing and camping. The Homer Spit is the only other area with public recreational facilities (operated by the City of Homer), and the summer impact to the Spit will be relieved somewhat by development of Cottonwood-Eastland.

There are also identified archaeological sites in the area. The 1979 feasibility study noted this, and recommended investigation, evaluation and excavation, if necessary, to preserve and protect these sites. Transfer to park status would help assure this protection.

Other justification for inclusion of these parcels in this legislation include:

- * High scenic and wildlife values.
- * Developed road to area.
- * Strong possibility of year-round public use, once facilities are developed.

AURORA LAGOON: 2,553 ACRES +/-

This is a logical adjustment to the boundary of the park. In discussion with former legislators, it seems apparent that the omission of Aurora Lagoon from the original legislation creating Kachemak Bay State Park was an oversight. Currently, the lagoon is heavily utilized for recreational pursuits.

Aurora Lagoon itself offers not only high scenic and recreational values, but is one of the few areas of safe high tide moorage in this area of Kachemak Bay that is unaffected by inclement weather. In addition, there are good beach landing sites for small craft.

Other justifications include:

- * Excellent camping and hiking potential.

JUSTIFICATION SUMMARY

- * Strong potential as a public use cabin site.
- * Good recreational fishing in area - salmon, crab, clams.
- * The Kachemak Bay State Park Citizen's Advisory Board has identified Aurora Lagoon for inclusion in the park since 1984.
- * Commercial development (a wilderness lodge) is taking place on private land at nearby Bear Cove, and state park status of these public lands would enhance and encourage recreation in the Aurora Lagoon/Bear Cove area. This is an excellent area for trail development, with high scenic and recreational use.



CITY OF HOMER

CITY HALL

491 EAST PIONEER AVE.

HOMER, AK 99603-7624

FACSIMILE (907) 235-3140

(907) 235-8121

V

February 12, 1983

Representative Mike Navarre
P. O. V
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Mike:

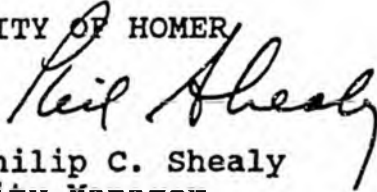
Enclosed please find a copy of Resolution 88-5 supporting House Bill 244 relating to the addition of land to Kachemak Bay State Park and Kachemak Bay State Wilderness Park as unanimously adopted by the Homer City Council on Monday, February 8, 1988.

Kachemak Bay State Park attracts thousands of visitors annually therefore the City of Homer is interested in protecting and preserving lands in the bay area for recreational and scenic use by both residents and tourists. We believe that your support of House Bill 244 is an excellent example of preservation of a valuable resource and should be promoted if at all possible.

We are grateful for your support of House Bill 244 and hope you will call upon us if we may be of any further assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

CITY OF HOMER


Philip C. Shealy
City Manager

PCS/rah

Enclosure

CITY OF HOMER
HOMER, ALASKA

RESOLUTION 88-5

A RESOLUTION OF THE HOMER CITY COUNCIL SUPPORTING HOUSE BILL 244 RELATING TO THE ADDITION OF LAND TO KACHEMAK BAY STATE PARK AND KACHEMAK BAY STATE WILDERNESS PARK.

WHEREAS, House Bill 244 adds several parcels of state land in the Kachemak Bay area to the existing Kachemak Bay State Park (KBSP) and Kachemak Bay State Wilderness Park (KBSWP); and

WHEREAS, House Bill 244 has the strong support of the Kachemak Bay State Park Citizens' Advisory Board as well as the Homer Parks and Recreation Commission; and

WHEREAS, Kachemak Bay State Park attracts thousands of visitors annually to enjoy its mountains, glaciers, waters and forest for their recreational, scenic and wildlife values; and

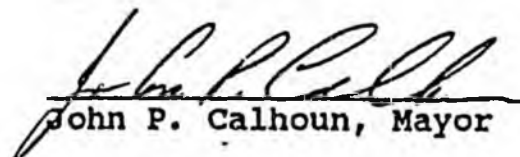
WHEREAS, the City of Homer has an interest in protecting and preserving lands in the Kachemak Bay area for the recreational and scenic uses of both residents and tourists.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Common Council of the City of Homer supports House Bill 244 relating to the addition of land to Kachemak Bay State Park and Kachemak Bay State Wilderness Park.

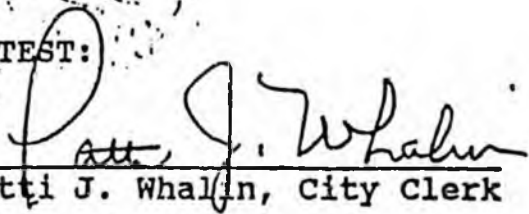
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager is authorized to send copies of this resolution of support to Representative Mike Navarre, Representative C. E. Swackhammer and Senator Paul Fischer as well as Governor Cowper and Dave Stutzer, Chair of the Kachemak Bay State Park Citizens' Advisory Board and respectfully urge support of the expansion of the parks.

DATED at Homer, Alaska this 8th day of February, 1988.

CITY OF HOMER


John P. Calhoun, Mayor

ATTEST:


Patti J. Whalin, City Clerk

Introduced by: Phillips
Date: February 16, 1988
Action: Adopted
Vote: 13 Yes, 3 No

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH

RESOLUTION 88-15

ENDORISING HOUSE BILL 244, RELATING TO THE ADDITION OF LAND TO KACHEMAK BAY STATE PARK AND KACHEMAK BAY STATE WILDERNESS PARK

WHEREAS, the Kenai Peninsula Borough has an interest in protecting and preserving recreation and scenic use lands within its boundaries; and

WHEREAS, Kachemak Bay State Park attracts thousands of visitors annually to enjoy its mountains, glaciers, waters and forests for their recreational, scenic and wildlife values; and

WHEREAS, other available State lands in the Kachemak Bay area have been identified as appropriate park lands and will, as park lands, enhance the recreational and tourism potential of the Kachemak Bay area; and

WHEREAS, State park properties on the Homer side of Kachemak Bay will help meet the need for year-round road-accessible recreation on the Southern Peninsula; and

WHEREAS, the State lands proposed for additions are free of conflicting claims and interests, following the University settlement and the Mental Health Lands Trust agreement;

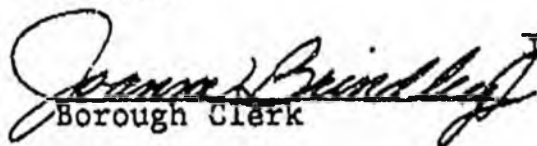
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:

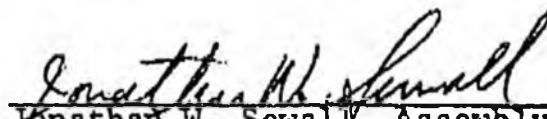
Section 1. That the Kenai Peninsula Borough endorses House Bill 244.

Section 2. That copies of this resolution be sent to Governor Cowper, Senator Paul Fischer, and Representatives Mike Navarre and C. E. Swackhammer.

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH ON THIS 16th DAY OF February, 1988.

ATTEST:


Borough Clerk


Jonathan W. Sewall, Assembly President

Alaska State Legislature



WHILE IN SESSION
PO BOX 7
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
(907) 485-3779
HOUSE MAJORITY CLERK

HOME ADDRESS
PO BOX 169
KENAI, ALASKA 99811
(907) 262-9366
DISTRICT 5

Representative Mike Navarre

January 17, 1989

MEMORANDUM

TO: All members, House Resources Committee

FROM: Representative Mike Navarre

SUBJECT: House Bill 8, "An Act relating to the addition of land to Kachemak Bay State Park and Kachemak Bay State Wilderness Park"

Attached is back-up material for the above legislation. The measure was originally introduced last session at the request of the Kachemak Bay State Park Advisory Board (as HB 244), and passed the House by a wide margin. Unfortunately, the measure died in the Senate Rules Committee during the final hours of the Fifteenth Legislature.

The bill has been endorsed (as HB 244) by the City Council of Homer, by the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly, and by numerous citizen's groups and individuals. They feel, as I do, that due to the high recreational and/or wilderness value of these lands, it is in the best public interest for them not only to be maintained as public lands, but to be managed by the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation.

There is one change from last year's bill - the McDonald Spit lands (some 16 acres) within HB 244 are not contained in this measure. Due to the recently revived land exchange negotiations between the State and Seldovia Native Association (SNA) for SNA's inholdings within Kachemak Bay State Park, these lands have been dropped from the bill. McDonald Spit has potential for inclusion as part of a pool of lands offered to SNA as part of the exchange.

I respectfully urge the House Resources Committee's favorable consideration of House Bill 8.